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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirteenth executive session
Geneva, 8 July 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE AT ITS NINTH SESSION**

Draft provisional agendas for the first sessions of the Commissions submitted by the President of the Board

GE.96-51258

**COMMISSION ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES**
**First session**

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. **Enabling countries to respond to the opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements so as to derive maximum available benefit by: analysing the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development and enhancing capacities for participation in the multilateral trading system**

*This item would permit an examination of the current trading opportunities and challenges facing developing countries and the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on their development. Trading opportunities of developing countries in goods and services and their integration into the world economy will also be influenced to an important extent by the ability of these countries to participate more fully in the multilateral trading system. This issue will focus on enhancing national capacities in terms of human resources and administrative infrastructures, to enable countries to adjust effectively to meet their obligations and to take advantage of their rights under the multilateral trading system, as well as with the assistance provided to countries in the process of accession to WTO. The secretariat report to this session should include possible ways of strengthening capacities for participating in the multilateral trading system.*

4. **Integrating trade, environment and development: recent progress and outstanding issues**

*Consistent with the UNCTAD IX mandate, the Commission should analyze the situation four years after the Rio Conference, particularly with regard to the issues identified in paragraph 91(iv) of the UNCTAD IX document.*

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

**COMMISSION ON INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES**
**First session**

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. **Developments in international investment: interaction between investment and trade and its impact on development**

*Against the background of global and regional FDI trends and on the basis of an analysis of the interrelationships between FDI and trade, the Commission will discuss national and international policy measures designed to increase the contribution of FDI to development, including especially measures to encourage FDI flows to developing countries, especially LDCs. To facilitate the discussion, the report on this item summarizes the information in the World Investment Report 1996.*

4. **Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development**

*The Commission will focus on examining issues related to the subject: continuing analytical work on restrictive business practices and assistance in formulating competition policies and legislation. To facilitate the discussion, experts will prepare a report.*

5. Reports requiring the attention of the Commission

*Under this item, consideration would be given to the report of the UNCTAD secretariat on the activities of the programme and to the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.*

6. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

7. Other business

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

**COMMISSION ON ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS FACILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT**
**First session**

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. **Enterprise: issues relating to an enterprise development strategy**

*The new dynamics of production and of enterprise development engendered by globalization, liberalization and technological change have focused attention on the need for developing and other countries to adopt a comprehensive and coherent national strategy for enterprise development, with a particular focus on SMEs, that will enable them to build up their enterprises as an essential instrument of development and of their enhanced participation in the world economy. While such a strategy is important for countries at all levels of development, it is particularly important for least developed countries which lack a mature enterprise or SME sector and which need to build up such a sector. Attention will be given to the main elements of such a strategy, including the policy and institutional implications, with a view to contributing to the identification of policy options, at both national and international levels, to enhance the role of domestic enterprises in development and in the global economy. Discussion on this issue will be facilitated by exchange of relevant experience. Particular reference will be made to (i) role of Government-private sector dialogue in promoting enterprise development; (ii) measures of support for fostering the creation, development, efficiency, competitiveness and internationalization of enterprises, particularly SMEs, including through the establishment of enterprise linkages, both domestic and international, and issues of interrelationship between enterprise development and technology; and (iii) measures to address the effects of structural adjustment policies on enterprise development.*

4. **Services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency assessment**

*UNCTAD's primary role in this sector is to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and countries in transition, in generating trade-supporting services such as customs, transportation, banking and insurance, telecommunications or business information which are adapted to their particular requirements. Several of these areas were also identified by the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency held in Columbus in October 1994, as being able*

*significantly to improve participation in international trade (especially of weaker and small players). Within each of these sectors, the Commission can contribute to identifying priorities among the relevant policy issues and practical measures for a rapid enhancement of the objectives of trade efficiency worldwide, with special attention to the least developed countries. In this context, the Commission will be in a position to examine the possibility to invite experts to meet and address sectoral and cross-sectoral issues relevant to the follow-up of UNISTE. Based on the outcome of this work and that of the Commission itself, it will then be the Commission's responsibility to identify and pursue the policy opportunities raised by the Trade Efficiency Assessment exercise called for by UNCTAD IX. The Commission will take into account the close cooperation between UNCTAD, ECE, ITC and other relevant international organizations on these issues. An area of particular and immediate importance to most developing countries and economies in transition is that of transit, in which the practical experience acquired by UNCTAD (through programmes like ACIS, ASYCUDA and its work on corridor agreements), as well as the availability of new technologies, represents a capital that could be brought to rapid fruition. It is proposed that the Commission convene a first expert meeting to define the avenues and tools required to simplify implementation of transit agreements.*

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission and any necessary preparation through expert meetings

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission